

Rhode Island Medico-Legal Soc

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# CONSTITUTION

AND

BY-LAWS

OF THE

Rhode Island Medico-Legal Society,

1885.

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# CONSTITUTION

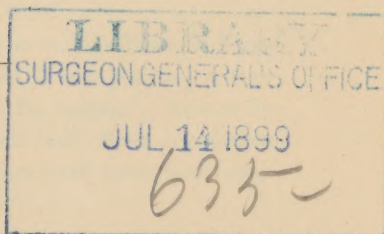
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# CONSTITUTION.

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I. This organization shall be called "THE RHODE ISLAND MEDICO-LEGAL SOCIETY."

II. Its purposes shall be to elevate the official character of the Medical Examiner, and to assist him in the discharge of his duties ; to collect and utilize such facts as have a medico-legal value ; and to excite a general interest in the subject of forensic medicine, and to promote its successful cultivation.

III. The society shall consist of regular and associate members.

IV. Regular members shall consist only of those persons who have been duly appointed and qualified as Medical Examiners, or, being so appointed and qualified, shall hereafter be duly admitted to membership.

V. Associate members shall be those persons who shall from time to time be designated or chosen as such, in accordance with the By-laws of the society.

VI. The officers of this society shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Board of Censors, and (united in one person) a Secretary and Treasurer ; all of whom shall be annually chosen by ballot from the regular members, and shall hold their respective offices for the ensuing year, and until others shall have been elected in their places.

VII. The President, the Vice-President, and the Secretary, shall constitute an executive board, whose duty it shall be to carry out the purposes of the society as expressed by its By-laws or its votes.

# BY-LAWS.

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## ON MEMBERSHIP.

I. The privilege of *regular* membership shall be open to any person who has been duly qualified as a Medical Examiner; but no one thus qualified shall acquire the rights and privileges of membership, unless he shall have subscribed to the Constitution and By-laws before the first day of January, 1886. Thereafter, qualified Medical Examiners, on approval by the Censors of this society, may be elected to regular membership at any stated meeting.

The expiration, without renewal, of the commission of a Medical Examiner shall terminate his regular membership.

*Associate* members shall consist, in part, of the Attorney-General of the State, the Assistant Attorney-General, and the members of the State Board of Health, during their respective terms of office. The society may also, at any stated meeting, elect to permanent associate membership such persons versed in medical, legal, or technical science, as may be recommended by the Board of Censors.

All elections to membership shall be by ballot, expressed in "Yes" or "No;" and four negative votes shall exclude a candidate from membership for one year.

The business of the society shall be managed, and the expenses paid, by the *regular* members.

The *associate* members shall attend only those meetings to which they shall be invited, and then shall have full liberty to participate in all scientific or professional discussion, and to present communications.

II. A fee of two dollars shall be paid by each regular member at the time of his admission. He shall also pay from time to time any *pro rata* assessment which shall be necessary to meet such expenses as have been authorized or incurred by votes of the society.

#### ON MEETINGS.

III. The *stated* meetings shall be held quarterly; the annual meetings on the third Thursday in July. At the annual meeting the election of officers shall take place, and the reports of the officers and of standing committees shall be received.

*Special* meetings may be called by authority of the Executive Board, and shall be called upon a *written* request signed by five regular members.

Seven members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business; but a less number may adjourn the meeting, or may hear and discuss communications.

IV. The different items of business shall take precedence in the following order:

Calling the meeting to order.

Reading and correction of Secretary's record.

Report of Secretary.

Report of Treasurer.

Report of Censors.

Reports of Standing Committees.

Election of officers and of new members.

Reading of appointed papers, with discussion and action thereon.

Voluntary communications, with discussion and action thereon.

Reports of Special Committees.

Incidental business.

Appointment of Special Committees.

Introduction of newly elected officers and members.

Adjournment.



## OFFICIAL DUTIES.

V. There shall be one censor from each county (five). They shall organize as soon as possible after their election, with a Chairman and Secretary selected\* from their own number. This Board of Censors shall meet at the same place and on the same day as the stated meeting of the society, and as much oftener as circumstances may require. The Secretary of the Board shall notify the individual members of each meeting, shall keep an accurate record of all their proceedings, and shall report the same to the society at the annual meeting.

The censors shall, at their discretion, recommend for admission to this society any person who shall hereafter be qualified as a Medical Examiner. They shall also propose at any stated meeting the names of persons whom it would recommend for permanent associate membership, the same being eligible under the By-laws.

They shall exercise a constant and careful supervision, shall at once notify the Executive Board of improper or unbecoming conduct on the part of any Medical Examiner or of any member of this society, and shall report the same to the society at a meeting called for the purpose. They shall ever use all the honorable means which they can command for the purpose of preventing the confirmation and appointment of any incompetent or unworthy person as Medical Examiner.

VI. The Executive Board, in addition to duties already assigned to it, shall be the committee of arrangements for all the meetings, and shall prepare and present at the annual meeting a report of the work of the Medical Examiners for the previous year.

VII. The President, the Vice-President, and the Secretary and Treasurer, shall perform in their respective offices such duties as custom, or the votes of the society shall assign to them.

## ON CENSURE AND EXPULSION.

VIII. Every member shall be liable to a vote of censure or expulsion for cause shown by the censors; but no such vote shall



be allowed to pass without the assent of a majority of the regular members.

Should the censors deem it their duty to investigate the conduct of any member of the society, they shall forthwith give him notice of the fact, with a sufficient reason for their intended action. They shall, also, receive and consider any statements, explanations, or evidence, which he may choose, within a reasonable time, to offer in his own behalf.

Should the Board of Censors then prefer charges of improper or unbecoming conduct against the said member, he shall for the time being forfeit all rights in the society, excepting that he may be present at a special meeting called for the purpose, at which the said charges shall be stated in full, with the evidence by which they are supposed to be justified and affirmed; and the accused shall then and there have an opportunity to be heard in his own defense, after which he shall retire. The society shall proceed to dispose of the case by conviction or otherwise, and shall fix a penalty, if need be. The action of the society shall be communicated to the accused in writing by the Secretary without delay.

#### ALTERATION OF CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS.

IX. Any article of the Constitution or By-laws may be altered or amended, or any new article may be added by a two-thirds vote of all the *regular* members present at either of the stated meetings; provided, that, at some previous stated meeting full notice of the proposed change or addition shall have been given in writing to the Secretary, and that he shall have read the said notice to the society.

#### FORM OF DECLARATION TO BE SIGNED BY MEMBERS.

X. At the time of his admission, every member shall sign the following declaration:

“I hereby accept and subscribe to the Constitution and By-laws of the Rhode Island Medico-Legal Society, as now adopted or hereafter amended.”







